

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

My Vision for Canada – A Real Plan to Protect Our Environment

Bonjour,

C'est toujours un plaisir pour moi de revenir dans ce coin de Gatineau, un coin de verdure à quelques minutes du centre-ville d'Ottawa. Gatineau qui est d'ailleurs une des villes les plus vertes au Québec.

Thank you Ed and Joel for that introduction.

And thank you all for joining us here today for what is the most highly anticipated policy announcement from an opposition party in Canadian history.

There's a reason why that's the case.

Why so many Canadians are looking to Conservatives for new ideas and leadership on this critically important issue.

Why our friends in the media have speculated for months on end as to when we would release this policy.

And why the Liberals have obsessed over it, literally counting the days until the Conservative plan is released – and attacking it even before it's made public.

It's because the Liberals have failed.

If Trudeau's approach was working – if Canada's environment and its performance was actually improving – nobody would care what Conservatives have to say about it.

But the Liberal approach is not working.

And Canadians need an alternative.

Canadians trusted Justin Trudeau when he said he would protect the environment and lower Canada's emissions.

Instead, all they got was a carbon tax.

The carbon tax isn't simply another Liberal tax grab.

It is so much more than that. It represents a betrayal of trust.

A classic Liberal bait and switch, promising Canadians a plan to lower emissions and protect the environment and instead delivering nothing but a tax to punish taxpayers and pad government revenues.

Les Canadiens se souviennent de l'Accord de Kyoto.

Malgré des gouvernements majoritaires successifs et plusieurs années de vœux pieux sur ces objectifs, les libéraux n'ont jamais fait de progrès pour réaliser les cibles d'émissions de Kyoto.

Au moment où notre gouvernement conservateur précédent est arrivé au pouvoir en 2006, Kyoto était hors de portée. L'inaction des libéraux l'avait rendu impossible à atteindre.

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Treize ans plus tard et nous revoilà dans la même situation.

Cette fois, c'est l'Accord de Paris. Un autre effort international qui vise à lutter contre les changements climatiques, une autre promesse grandiose d'un gouvernement libéral qui demandait au Canada de faire sa part.

Et encore un autre échec.

Just after being elected, Justin Trudeau committed Canada to the Paris Agreement and promised Canadians he would reach its targets – which also happen to be the same targets set by the previous Conservative government: A 30% reduction of 2005 greenhouse gas emissions levels by 2030.

That promise, like so many others from this government, has been broken.

Not only is Canada failing to hit our targets, we are getting further and further away.

In 2016, we were 44 megatonnes over target. In 2017, that number rose to 66 megatonnes. And last year, we were 103 megatonnes over.

Trudeau's solution? A carbon tax.

A carbon tax that will hit hard-working families the hardest, with higher costs for gasoline, groceries, and home heating.

A carbon tax that won't apply at all to some of Canada's biggest emitters, thanks to a sweetheart exemption deal from Justin Trudeau that will allow them to pay no tax on up to 90% of their emissions.

And a carbon tax that will go higher if he's re-elected.

How high is anybody's guess. They won't answer questions when they are put to them.

And just last week, the Parliamentary Budget Officer said that in order to reach Paris, the Liberal Carbon tax would have to be over \$100 per tonne – in all 10 provinces, not just those Trudeau has forced his tax on.

With sales taxes, this would add 23 cents a litre to the price of gas and cost an average Ontario family of four about \$1,000 more per year.

That's only the beginning. Trudeau's own Environment department is already planning for a \$300 a tonne carbon tax.

As an environmental policy, the carbon tax is – by every possible measure and projection – a failure of epic proportions.

It makes virtually no contribution to the global fight against climate change.

And it only makes life more expensive for Canadian families and small businesses.

It is simply not as advertised.

Nous devons adopter une nouvelle approche. Et les conservateurs sont prêts à le faire.

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Nous devrions tous être inquiets des changements climatiques – du genre de planète que nous allons laisser aux générations futures.

Mais la question n'est pas de savoir si nous sommes préoccupés. Ou si nous devrions être inquiets.

Bien sûr que nous devons l'être.

La vraie question est : qu'est-ce que le Canada devrait faire ?

Les paroles creuses et les gestes symboliques qui sont la marque de commerce de la politique environnementale libérale ne vont pas améliorer les choses.

Canadians expect results. And Conservatives know that Liberals are great at making promises.

But Conservatives are great at delivering.

Because protecting the environment is a core conservative principle.

Whatever we inherit from those who came before us we must leave in better shape for those who come after us.

And Conservatives have a proud legacy when it comes to managing Canada's natural environment and improving Canada's environmental performance.

This legacy spans the full history of our country. The founder of our party and Canada's first Prime Minister – Sir John A. Macdonald – laid the groundwork for the national parks system and created the first three – Banff, Yoho, and Glacier.

Years later, Prime Minister Robert Borden championed arctic exploration to establish a scientific understanding of our northern frontier.

Prime Minister John Diefenbaker further entrenched Canada's arctic sovereignty with his *Roads to Resources* policy while also enshrining in legislation Canadian Environment Week, an annual tradition encouraging environmental action that continues to this day.

Brian Mulroney – nommé le premier ministre canadien le plus vert en deux-mille-six – a négocié l'accord Canada–États-Unis sur les pluies acides, créé huit nouveaux parcs nationaux et appliqué la Loi canadienne sur la protection de l'environnement, la première loi anti-pollution générale de l'histoire de notre pays.

Le précédent gouvernement conservateur a réussi à réduire les émissions de gaz à effet de serre entre deux-mille-sept et deux-mille-quinze grâce à des programmes ciblés dans les secteurs de l'agriculture, des transports et de l'énergie.

*Le plan que j'annonce aujourd'hui – **Un vrai plan pour protéger notre environnement** – est basé sur ce précieux héritage conservateur.*

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Notre plan équilibre la nécessité pour le Canada de combattre les changements climatiques en réduisant les émissions globales et notre engagement fondamental de laisser plus d'argent dans les poches des Canadiens et Canadiennes et de leur permettre d'améliorer leur quotidien.

A Real Plan to Protect Our Environment is built on three guiding principles:

1. *Green technology, not taxes.*
2. *A cleaner and greener natural environment.*
3. *Taking the climate change fight global.*

This plan is the most comprehensive environmental platform ever put forward by a political party in Canada – far surpassing anything Justin Trudeau put out before the 2015 election.

Sixty pages.

Eleven thousand words.

And fifty-five specific, realistic, and achievable policy commitments.

Ce plan est la plateforme environnementale la plus compréhensive jamais présentée par une partie politique au Canada – qui est de beaucoup supérieure à ce que Justin Trudeau a présenté avant l'élection de 2015.

Soixante pages.

Onze mille mots.

Et cinquante-cinq politiques spécifiques, réalistes et réalisables.

Now if I were to stand here today and walk you through all of them, we'd be here all night.

So instead, I will deal with the highlights.

First, Conservatives fundamentally believe that you cannot tax your way to a cleaner environment.

Instead, the answer lies in technology.

And **A Real Plan to Protect Our Environment** recognizes this.

First, we will implement *Green Investment Standards* that require polluters whose emissions exceed strict limits to invest in emissions-reduction technology specific to their industry.

We will set this limit at 40 kilotons per year. That's 10 kilotons stricter than the Liberals' output-based system.

Under the Conservative plan, it will not be free to pollute – and unlike the Liberal scheme, there will be no sweetheart deals for anybody.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

However, rather than simply funneling money to the government as the Liberal plan dictates, emitters who exceed our limits will be required to invest in technology that will lower emissions to fight climate change.

Technology. Not taxes.

The fact is we can actually create more jobs in Canada through technological growth while at the same time lowering global emissions.

This is perhaps the single greatest difference between the Liberal scheme and the Conservative plan.

We will introduce the *Green Homes Tax Credit*, a two-year plan that will encourage Canadians to improve their homes with emissions-reducing technologies.

In 2017, emissions from buildings accounted for 12% of Canada's total greenhouse gas emissions. We cannot tackle climate change without making our buildings greener.

Les Canadiens vont pouvoir réclamer un crédit remboursable de 20% de leur impôt sur le revenu pour des améliorations vertes à leur domicile de plus de mille dollars et jusqu'à vingt-mille dollars.

This will allow Canadians to save up to \$3,800 on their green renovations in each year.

And we will introduce the *Green Patent Credit* for green innovators and entrepreneurs who create new emissions-reducing technologies.

This will lower the tax rate from 15% to 5% on income earned from the patent of a new green technology.

Now these are only three of several new policy proposals in our *Green technology, not taxes* plan.

Our second policy principle – *A cleaner and greener natural environment* – focuses squarely on protecting our air, land, water, and wildlife.

Canada is home to some of the most beautiful places on the planet.

From Stanley Park and Banff National Park in the west, *au Rocher Percé en Gaspésie* to Gros Morne and the Cape Breton Highlands in the east, to Lancaster Sound and Nahanni in the north.

Just last week, I took my family fishing at Rideau Lake. And I watched as my children experienced the beauty and wonder it has to offer.

Ces zones, et bien d'autres encore, méritent notre admiration et notre protection.

À cette fin, nous allons renforcer la protection contre les parasites et les espèces envahissantes qui menacent nos habitats.

Nous allons rétablir des consultations constructives avec les intervenants et les groupes autochtones sur les aires protégées que les libéraux Trudeau ont annulé.

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

We will reinstate funding for wetland, watershed, and fisheries conservation also revoked by the Liberals.

We will reconvene the Hunting and Angling Advisory Panel the Liberals disbanded, so those with the greatest interest in protecting species and habitats can share their expertise in how it will be done.

We will take real action on reducing plastic waste by harmonizing recycling standards across provinces and working with industry to cut down on excessive packaging.

Et nous allons protéger nos cours d'eau des déversements d'eaux usées.

Un des premiers gestes de Catherine McKenna comme ministre de l'Environnement a été de permettre à la Ville de Montréal de déverser huit milliards de litres d'eaux usées dans le fleuve St-Laurent.

Non seulement ceci est-il absolument répugnant, mais cela envoie le message que nos cours d'eau ne comptent pas et peuvent être pollués.

Comme premier ministre, je vais travailler de concert avec les municipalités pour mettre fin à cette pratique.

Finally, our third policy principle – *Taking the climate change fight global.*

Greenhouse gas emissions do not recognize borders.

Nor are the impacts of climate change proportional to any one country's emissions.

Whether emissions are reduced in Canada or in China, the scientific impact on global climate change is the exact same.

We don't do the world any favours by driving investment and jobs away from Canada – where energy is cleaner and environmental standards are higher – and into the welcoming arms of countries with dirtier sources of energy and lower environmental standards.

Under that scenario, the Liberal scenario, everybody loses.

Canada loses jobs. And global emissions go up.

Canada could stop everything tomorrow. Natural resource development. Mining. Manufacturing. Agriculture. Everything. And it would mean almost nothing.

Justin Trudeau said so himself.

He said, quote, “Even if Canada stopped everything tomorrow, and the other countries didn't have any solutions, it wouldn't make a big difference.”

If you shut down Canada's entire economy for a year, China would replace all our emissions within 3 weeks.

The fact is Canada will not make a meaningful contribution to fighting climate change by focusing only on our own emissions.

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We must look beyond our borders.

This is the fresh new perspective Canada needs. And as Prime Minister, it will be mine.

It starts with exporting our environmental excellence.

J'ai énormément confiance en l'innovation et l'ingéniosité des Canadiens. Et je suis fier de ce que nous avons accompli.

Nos meilleurs et les plus brillants sont prêts à faire leur marque sur la scène mondiale en réduisant les émissions dans les pays les plus émetteurs du monde.

Take liquified natural gas, or LNG, as an example.

LNG has tremendous potential to lower global emissions while also growing the Canadian economy.

By expanding our LNG capacity, we can help countries like China transition away from coal and dramatically lower global emissions.

Or take carbon capture and storage.

If China outfitted only 100 of its 3,000 coal plants with Canadian carbon capture and storage technology, they could eliminate more than 300 megatonnes of greenhouse gas emissions every year – nearly half of what Canada's entire economy produces.

Our **Real Plan to Protect Our Environment** not only acknowledges these scientific realities, it lays out specific ways to get results that will bring us closer to our emissions reductions targets.

First, we will bring in a *Green Expansion Accelerator* that will provide targeted capital cost allowances to industries, like LNG, that can be shown to reduce emissions in other countries.

And we will create the new *Canadian Clean Brand*, a product designation that will communicate to the world which technologies can lower emissions around the world.

En terminant, j'aimerais dire quelques mots sur l'Accord de Paris.

Les cibles du Canada mentionnés dans cet Accord sont des cibles conservatrices.

Les libéraux les réclament comme les leurs, mais ils ont orienté le Canada dans la mauvaise direction.

Nous croyons que notre plan donne au Canada la meilleure possibilité et la plus réaliste d'atteindre les cibles de Paris.

In fact, the Parliamentary Budget Officer, in his report last week, made a point of saying that technological advancement and adoption alone could lower our baseline emissions by 101 megatonnes by 2030.

If that is true for Canada, imagine what Canadian technology can do for the world.

Now in closing, I want to say a few words about how we got here.

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More and more Canadians are realizing that paying a tax isn't going to help the environment.

That a carbon tax is not an environmental plan.

They are looking for a real plan.

A plan that is realistic and achievable.

A plan that doesn't punish them for living their lives while acknowledging the truly global nature of the climate change problem.

That is our plan. The Conservative plan.

Comme notre histoire le démontre, ce sont les conservateurs qui nous ont fait avancer vers une protection environnementale réelle et significative.

Nous l'avons déjà fait et nous allons le faire encore.

Climate change is real. And it represents a serious threat not only to Canada, but to our entire planet.

So we owe it to our children, who will inherit from us this great and beautiful country, to preserve the environment they will be entrusted to protect.

I am a father of five. And they mean absolutely everything to me. Everything I do in this job, I do for them.

Je suis père de cinq enfants. Ils signifient absolument tout pour moi. Tout ce que je fais dans ce métier, je le fais pour eux.

And just as Conservatives will not leave our children a fiscal deficit, we will also not leave them an environmental deficit.

That is my vision for Canada.

Thank you.